project would be known only when the DFR is submitted by CRL.

Corruption Cases

3042. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases relating to corruption, dishonesty and assets disproportionate to the income of defence/civil servants investigated by the vigilance department of the Ministry in 1995-96;

(b) the number of officers involved in the above cases, grade-wise;

(c) the number of complaints received for corruption and dishonesty in the 1995-96 and the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the vigilance initiate action suo moto against the staff suspected to be dishonest and corrupt;

(e) if so, whether the Ministry have made any review of the functioning of powers of the vigilance section under their control; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) The number of cases relating to corruption, dishonesty and assets disproportionate to the income of defence/civil servants investigated by the vigilance department of the Ministry in 1995-96 is 100.

(b) The number of officers involved in the above cases is as under :

Civilian	Service Officer	
Group 'A' - 45	Officers	- 38
Group 'B' - 22	JCOs	- 4
Group 'C' - 27	ORs/Sailors/ Airmen	- 9
Group 'D' - Nil		

(c) The number of complaints received for corruption and dishonesty in the year 1995-96 is 268. These complaints were got investigated through vigilance cells of the concerned ogranisations and appropriate punitive action was taken in such cases where the allegations were substantiated.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Vigilance Section/Cells initiate suo-moto action against the staff suspected to be dishonest and corrupt.

(e) and (f) The functioning of the Vigilance Section/ Cells is reviewed by the Ministry from time to time on the basis of quarterly reports/returns and meetings of the CVOs with the Heads of Vigilance Cells. The Vigilance setup has been functioning satisfactorily and the existing instructions meet the requirement.

[Translation]

Supply of Less Quantity of Petrol

3043. SHRIMATI SUBHAWATI DEVI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any complaint regarding petrol pump in Benipur distt., Darbhanga in Bihar supplying less quantity of petrol and charging more money than the actual price; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not cancelling its license ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU) : (a) and (b) A complaint was received against M/s. Sunder Service Station, Benipur, Darbhanga for over-charging. During investigation, it was found that the dealer had charged additional one paise compared to the approved rate. In line with the Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG), sales and supplies were suspended for 15 days and a fine of Rs. 2000/- was imposed on the dealer alongwith a warning letter. As this was the first instance of over-charging by the dealer, the licence was not cancelled. Dealerships are liable for termination under the MDG for the third offence.

[English]

Standard of NCC Cadets

3044. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any steps have been taken to raise the standard of National Cader Corps Cadets to commensurate with the requirement of armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the strength of girl cadets is being raised, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken to review the activities of N.C.C., and bring about necessary changes in N.C.C. training ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b) National Cadet Corps (NCC) is essentially a vountary movement aimed at developing desirable physical and mental qualities

among the youth to make them useful citizens capable of providing leadership in all walks of life including the Armed Forces. NCC is not intended to serve as a feeder organisation for recruitment to the Armed Forces.

(c) and (d) a committee has been constituted to conduct a comprehensive review of the working of the NCC and to suggest ways and means to improve and expand its functioning. The committee will also, inter alia, examine the feasibility of increasing the strength of NCC girl cadets.

Condition of National Highways

3045. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Rajmargon ki durdasa mein dhan ki kami nahin, laparavahi ka haath" appearing in the Dainik Jagran dated May 13, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) The Government is aware of the issues raised in the newsitem referred to in the question. To remedy these problems several measures like simplification of procedures for land acqusition, early environmental clearance and proper project appraisal have recently been taken. With these measures, it is expected that the implementation of projects would be smooth and fast.

River Water Distribution

3046. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new schedule has been made for river water distribution between India and Bangladesh during dry season;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the expert of the River Commission has given any suggestion regarding distribution of river water between India and Bangladesh recently; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Defence Modernisation Programme

3047. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether delay in plan formulation and tight-fisted funding have installed India's ambitious defence modernisation programme;

(b) whether during the seventh and eighth plan period, the funding of ambitious defence modernisation programmes was not undertaken;

(c) if so, whether there is no mention of modernisation of defence programmes, during Ninth Plan period also;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to prepare modernisation programme during the Ninth Plan to make our defence forces stronger; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) India's defence modernisation effort is an on-going process within the parameters of available resources and defence priorities.

(b) to (e) Funds are made available for prioritised defence modernisation programme from within the allocated budget for this purpose. Within the financial parameters anticipated, projections for the prioritised modernisation programmes for the 9th Plan period have been drawn up. It will not be in the interest of national security to divulge the details of defence modernisation programmes.

Integrated Anti-Missile Defence Programme

3048. SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR :
SHRI ANIL BASU :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan for an Integrated anti-missile defence programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons for not planning the programme earlier in view of missile developments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c) Government have received a proposal for development of this system. It is not in national security interest to give further details at this juncture.